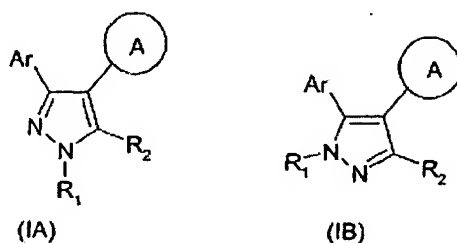


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



wherein

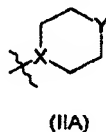
Ar is an aryl, aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl), heteroaryl, or heteroaryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl) group, any of which being optionally substituted in the aryl or heteroaryl part thereof a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position,

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl; or a carboxyl, carboxamide or carboxyl ester group; and

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA) ~~non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring~~



wherein X represents N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH.

wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>p</sub>-(Cyc)<sub>n</sub>-(Alk<sup>3</sup>)<sub>m</sub>-(Z)<sub>r</sub>-(Alk<sup>2</sup>)<sub>s</sub>-Q where

Alk<sup>1</sup>, Alk<sup>2</sup> and Alk<sup>3</sup> are optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; phenylene radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR<sup>A</sup>-, -C(=O)NR<sup>A</sup>-,

-NR<sup>A</sup>C(=O)-, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>A</sup>-, or -NR<sup>A</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>- wherein R<sup>A</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical; and

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR<sup>A</sup>, -COR<sup>A</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>A</sup>, -CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHNH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHNHR<sup>A</sup>, -CONHNRR<sup>A</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -CONHR<sup>A</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NHR<sup>A</sup>, -CONR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHR<sup>A</sup>, -NR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup>, -OCONH<sub>2</sub>, -OCONHR<sup>A</sup>, -OCONR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup>, -NHCOR<sup>A</sup>, -NHCOOR<sup>A</sup>, -NR<sup>B</sup>COOR<sup>A</sup>, -NHCO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>A</sup>, -NR<sup>B</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>A</sup>, -NHCONH<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>A</sup>CONH<sub>2</sub>, -NHCONHR<sup>B</sup>, -NR<sup>A</sup>CONHR<sup>B</sup>, -NHCONR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup>, and -NR<sup>A</sup>CONR<sup>A</sup>R<sup>B</sup> wherein R<sup>A</sup> and R<sup>B</sup> are independently a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl group.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each hydrogen.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein ~~the optionally substituted ring A is of in the ring of~~ formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is -NR<sup>A</sup>- wherein R<sup>A</sup> is a radical of formula -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>s</sub>-Q, wherein Alk<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl. wherein optionally substituted is defined as in claim 1.

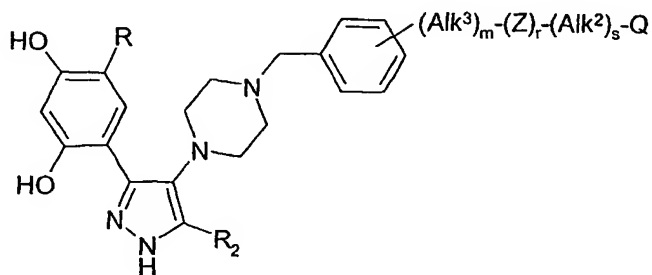
14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein ~~the optionally~~

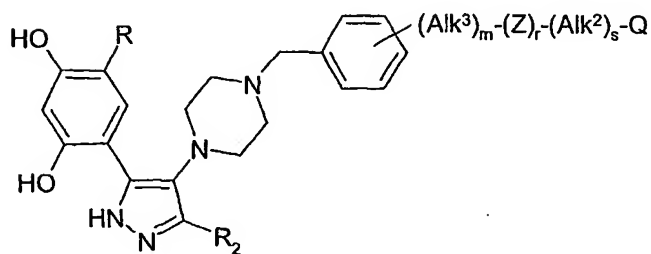
~~substituted ring A is of in the ring of formula (IIA), X is N, and Y is -NR<sup>A</sup>- wherein R<sup>A</sup> is a radical of formula -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>p</sub>-(Cyc)<sub>n</sub>-(Alk<sup>3</sup>)<sub>m</sub>-(Z)<sub>r</sub>-(Alk<sup>2</sup>)<sub>s</sub>-Q wherein Alk<sup>1</sup>, Alk<sup>2</sup>, Alk<sup>3</sup>, Cyc, Z and Q are as defined in claim 1.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R<sub>2</sub>, m, r, s, Alk<sup>3</sup>, Z, and ~~Alk<sup>2</sup>-Alk<sup>2</sup>~~ and optionally substituted are as defined in claim 1.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein  $n$  is 0,  $r$  is 1, and  $Z$  is -  
 $C(=O)NH-$ .

Claims 21 – 27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A compound as claimed in claim 13 wherein  $Ar$  is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo; or by optionally substituted phenyl or  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl; or by a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof, and wherein "optionally substituted" is as defined in claim 1.